running water fish culture, aerators for enhancing production, integrated fish farming, establishment of seed hatcheries and feed mills, etc. For brackishwater aquaculture, assistance is provided for development of shrimp farms, inputs, shrimp hatcheries and feed mills.

Assistance is also provided to the States for establishment of demonstration-cum-training centres at State level for training of farmers and rural youth in improved methods of fish|shrimm farming.

Distribution of edible oil through fair price shops

8318. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NDDB is not distributing edible oil through fair price shops;

(b) whether it is a fact that NDDB is doing trading of oil through businessmen instead of cooperative societies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that NDDB had made huge losses, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NDDB has reported that they are dealing in oil both through cooperatives as well as private traders.

(c) In the Market Intervention Operations (MIO) conducted by NDDB at the instance of Government of India, they have reported loss. These losses were reportedly incurred while building up stock so as to ensure incentive prices to farmers, and carry inventory and release the same during lean season to moderate consumer prices. Steep fall in prices of edible oil that led to decline in the value of the inventory has been reported as another contributing factor to the losses.

दूध की बर्बादी

8319. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भंडारण और अन्य सुविधाओं के अभाव में 50,000 लीटर दूध बर्बाद हो जाता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने दूध की ऐसी बर्बादी को रोकने हेतु क्या प्रयास किये है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) तथा (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Production and demand of paddy and wheat production and demand of paddy

8320. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of paddy and wheat for the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the total demand of these essential commodities for the current year 1995-96;

(c) whether the demand is met internally or the centre has to import essential foodgrains from other countries; and

(d) if not, the total availability of these essential commodities country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total production of paddy and wheat during agri-

cultural year 1993-94 and 1994-95 (likely) is as follows:

Year	Production (million tonnes)	
	Wheat	Paddy
1993-94	5 .13	118.46
1994-95 (likely)	6 .18	121.52

(b) The demand for rice and wheat at a given point of time depends upon the number of factors like; size of population and its characteristics, price behaviour, consumers' taste, availability of substitutes and other related economic factors. The total demand for foodgrains for 1994 has been provisionally estimated at 175.1 million tonnes. The demand for total foodgrains in 1995-96 is likely to increase by about 2.50 to 2.70 per cent over 1994-95 depending upon the increase in population, rise in per capita income and level of prices.

(c) The demand for essential foodgrains is largely met internally except some minor import of pulses.

(d) As per present assessment total production of foodgrains during 1994-95 is estimated to be about 186.35 million tonnes.

Production of Wool

8321. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wool produced in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during the last three years State-wise/district-wise;

(b) whether the wool is exported to other countries;

(c) if so, the quantity of wool exported during the above mentioned period;

(d) whether any assistance is being given by Government to the wool manufacturers' of the Punjab State;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to boost its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the organisations concerned and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Price of Dhara

8322. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil product 'DHARA' is being sold at higher price than other oil products; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether NDDB is doing trading in oil market or intervening in the market when prices have gone up; and

(c) whether farmers or consumers have received any benefit out of this system adopted by NDDB, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Market Intervention Operations (MIO) of NDDB came to an end on 31-3-94. after completion of the 5 year period. NDDB is now marketing Dhara brand of edible oils on its own account on commercial basis.

Illegal export of medical herbs

8323. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Doctors Association of Indian System of Medicine in a recent communication to the Minister has alleged that medicinal herbs costing rupees two hundred crores have been exported illegally every year as reported in Hindustan Times dated 11-4-95;

(b) if so, remedial steps which have been taken to check the illicit traffiking of medicinal herbs; and